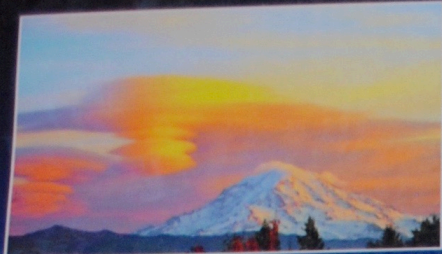


HOW MANY MAN-MADE CLOUDS CAN YOU IDENTIFY IN THESE PHOTOS?

NYTimes Article, March 20, 2011 http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/20/science/29clouds.html?_r=1&ref=science



Alto cumulus lenticularis. Alto cumulus clouds are typically layers or patches of cloudlets, and in the lenticularis variety they are candidates for "weirdest looking clouds in the sky." Though they often look like flying saucers, their name comes from the Latin word for lentil, possibly because whoever named them "could not think of the Latin word for 'shaped like a UFO.'"
Credit: Ryan Verweij



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Credit: Bryan Hightower



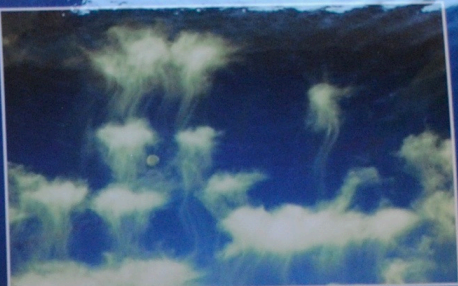
Cap. An example of lenticular clouds, typically form at mountaintops. Sometimes a "cap" is formed and sometimes like this, "it plays out in a full mother-of-pearl wedding extravaganza." But don't confuse them with a "cap" cloud clinging to a mountaintop. "Only a jaunty cloud-hat will do."
Credit: Ryan Verweij



Stratus. These low-lying clouds "can give you a strangely claustrophobic feeling." When a stratus cloud forms at a very low level, it is called fog or mist.
Credit: Michele Gruber



Alto cumulus lacunosus. "An elusive prize for any cloud collector," lacunosus clouds form when sinking pockets of air create holes in a cloud layer.
Credit: Kate Brookes



Virga. When a cloud starts producing rain or snow, but none of it reaches the ground, the result is a virga. Because trails hang down from a clumpy cloud, virgas are known as jellyfish tails.



Crepuscular rays. These appear when sunlight strikes tiny particles too scanty to appear as clouds. Though the rays appear to be emanating from the cloud, that is an optical illusion.
Credit: John MacPherson



Mamma. Mammals are supplementary features of clouds, and they hang below them like udders. Some call them a sign of bad weather coming in. There are competing theories as to how they form.
Credit: John Rowlands



22-degree halos. Rings of light can form by sunlight passing through ice crystals in thin layers of high clouds. Use caution in observing or photographing halos; looking directly at them can damage the eyes.



Iridescence. When sunlight or moonlight passes through a layer of thin clouds, the result can be iridescence. Iridescence is proof that not every cloud has a silver lining — "some have tutti-frutti-colored ones."
Credit: Hong Gyo Cho



Cirrostratus fibratus. When the wind draws ice-crystal clouds into long, fine filaments, they are called fibratus. In this case, shifting winds have formed a cirrostratus fibratus cloud into a herringbone pattern.
Credit: Anne Burgess



Cumulonimbus. "The king of clouds" is an enormous storm cloud. If you look at it from below, all you see is its dark, ragged underside. Seen from a distance, the cloud has a distinctive anvil shape. "No cloud collection is complete" without one.
Credit: Mick Ohrberg



Pileus. It might look like "a Donald Trump comb-over" of a cloud, but cloud collectors consider the pileus formation one of the most beautiful. Unfortunately, "it never hangs around for long."



Stratocumulus. "Due to its sun-blocking tendencies, stratocumulus may not be the most popular cloud, but it is one of the most varied." The most widespread of all cloud types, it typically forms in a low layer with a clumpy base.



Roll cloud. A roll cloud is "a long, low tube of a cloud," sometimes smooth, sometimes bumpy. This one, called Morning Glory, forms regularly in northern Queensland, Australia.
Credit: Gavin Pretor-Pinney